

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 8, 10, and 14 to 16 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Objections to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for allegedly failing to show every feature specified in the claims. In particular, the Final Office Action asserts that the Figures fail to show “the thickness of the valve sleeve varying across its axial direction and decreasing in a discharge direction of the fuel . . . and the inflow side region of the valve sleeve being formed in one piece with the supply pipe” Final Office Action, page 2. Applicant respectfully submits that Figure 1 is not objectionable for at least the following reasons.

As regards the variation in valve sleeve thickness, Applicant respectfully submits that Figure 1 fully complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). In this regard, Figure 1 shows a valve sleeve 5 with an inflow side region 25 with a thickness and a downstream region 26 with a thickness. It is well-settled that **figures in a patent are not drawn to scale unless otherwise indicated**. See, e.g., Hockerson-Halberstadt, Inc. v. Avia Group Int’l, Inc., 222 F.3d 951, 956 (Fed. Cir. 2000) (“[A] reasonable competitor, being aware that figures in a patent are not drawn to scale unless otherwise indicated.”). Further, it is respectfully noted that Figure 1 is plainly a **schematic** illustration. See, e.g., page 2, lines 19 to 22 of the Specification as originally filed (“The figure shows: Fig. 1 [which is] a schematic section through an exemplary embodiment of a fuel injector configured according to the present invention.”). Thus, no further illustration is required.

As regards the inflow-side region of the valve sleeve being formed in one piece with a supply pipe, Applicant respectfully submits that Figure 1 complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). In this regard, Figure 1 shows a valve sleeve 5 with an inflow side region 25 and a supply pipe 24. Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand from Figure 1 – which is a schematic illustration – how to form parts as one piece.